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BOOK REVIEWS

Francis Parkman's The Oregon Trail. Edited by HARRY G. PAUL.
(New York: Henry Holt & Co. 1918. Pp. 397.)

New proof of the popularity of *Parkman's Oregon Trail* comes from the press of Henry Holt & Co. Notwithstanding the fact that nearly a dozen different editions of this book are already on the market, still another edition is confidently offered to the public. Prof. Harry G. Paul, a skillful and enthusiastic teacher of English in the University of Illinois, has edited this satisfactory school edition. It contains, besides the complete text, a portrait, introduction, descriptive bibliography, notes and a map.

This classic was written just at the time that England had relinquished its title to the Oregon country and the full tide of American immigration had set in. It has little bearing either upon Oregon or the Oregon trail. Parkman makes no attempt to conceal his dislike for the Oregon immigrants, with whom he had as little as possible to do. Nevertheless this well-written narrative of the Great Plains gives valuable sidelights on the experiences endured by the Pacific Coast pioneers of the later '40s.

CHARLES W. SMITH.

The Rise of the Spanish Empire. By ROGER BIGELOW MERRIMAN.
(New York: The Macmillan Company. 1918. Two volumes.
Pp. 529 and 387. \$7.50 per set.)

The author in his preface epitomizes the chief interest his work has for the American student when he says: "To most Americans the principal interest of the subject will inevitably center around Spain's activities as a great conquering and colonizing power; for the increased importance of the countries of Iberian origin has been perhaps the most remarkable political and economic fact in the recent development of the Western Hemisphere."

The history of Spain, forming a background for the western influence, has not been well explored. The author proposes in four volumes, two of which are the subject of this brief review, to carry the story down to the death of Philip II. Practically the entire first volume is devoted to the medieval period. The author succeeds in establishing his contention that "at the greatest crisis of her imperial career Spain has been confronted by a bewildering array of irreconcilable opportunities. In her refusal to choose between them,

in her heroic but misguided attempts to utilize them all, lies the explanation of some of her most disastrous defeats."

The second volume of the series deals with colonial expansion of Spain from the reign of Ferdinand and Isabella to the death of Emperor Maximilian, 1516, which marked the consummation of Spain's national unity and the loss of her national independence.

The author's treatment of Spain's policy toward the Indians of America deserves comment. He shows very clearly that the rulers' determination to deal kindly with the natives and ultimately to convert them to Christianity did not harmonize with the explorers' and settlers' determination to exploit the natives for their own advantage. "The royal arm," says the author, "could not reach across the sea and bring the offenders quickly to justice."

In showing the relation of Spain to the new world the writer draws the conclusion that it was the Indies which accounted for her greatness during the brief period while it lasted. If they were a principal cause of her subsequent decay, it was also the primary cause of her preëminence.

The work is well written, has a pleasing style, and should have a high place in the annals of Spanish-American history.

LOUISE INGERSOLL.

The Development of Japan. By KENNETH SCOTT LATOURETTE. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1918. Pp. 237. \$1.50.)

The author is a native of Oregon, a nephew of the late Harvey W. Scott, famous editor of the *Oregonian*. After graduation from Yale University he worked and traveled extensively in China and Japan. He is now professor of history in Dennison University. This book has been spoken of as an evidence of his "gift of clear statement and simplicity."

The work is an effort to give the interesting history of Japan in one compact and readable volume. The first half is devoted to the old Japan and the balance to the marvelous development since the doors were opened by Matthew Calbraith Perry in 1853. The author has successfully resisted the natural temptation to release his grasp of the reins when writing about Perry. He looks straight ahead and tells the Japanese story instead of retelling the American chapter.

In speaking of the trouble provoked by the school segregation movement in San Francisco, he shows how President Roosevelt made successful intervention and Congress in 1907 authorized the president to prevent further immigration. He then adds: "The president then